

charter. The ruling placed a cloud of uncertainty over the operations of nearly 3,600 credit unions that continues to this day.

The credit union case, *National Credit Union Administration versus First National Bank & Trust, et. al.*, is now before the Supreme Court with a decision expected sometime early next year. At issue in the case are conflicting interpretations of the definition of credit union membership in the 1934 Federal Credit Union Act. Since 1982 the credit unions have interpreted this definition as permitting them to incorporate multiple common-bond groups within their membership. The banks interpret the same provision as limiting credit union membership to the core common-bond group in a credit union's original charter.

While the difference between these interpretations may seem minimal from the outside, it is extremely important to credit unions, like many in my district in western New York, that have a core membership in companies that have downsized in recent years or that have tried to reach out in their community to serve residents and groups who otherwise might have limited access to financial services.

Like many of my colleagues, I strongly support credit unions and believe they play a significant and necessary role in meeting the banking and credit needs of a huge segment of our population. While I believe credit unions require new opportunities to grow and compete, I am sensitive to complaints that larger credit unions not be allowed to exceed their original charter and simply duplicate the role and services of banks.

The issue for public policy is now to balance the need for continued membership growth by credit unions with the need to assure that credit unions do not simply duplicate the role of banks or compete unfairly with other local financial institutions.

Unfortunately, it appears that few in Congress want to address this issue and prefer to let it be resolved by the Supreme Court. I disagree. It is Congress' responsibility, not the Court's, to update a depression-era statute to conform with today's market realities.

Over the past several months I have worked to develop a legislative proposal to effectuate the best public policy on this issue. I do not intend to introduce the proposal at this time. Instead, I wish to offer it as a vehicle for discussion and as a guideline for future action, if needed.

I do not presume that the approach I am proposing is necessarily the right or only answer to the membership controversy. It is certainly not an approach that either the credit unions or the banks are likely to welcome or support at this time. But either party that loses the court decision will certainly view this as an extremely reasonable proposal. And it is possible that the Court may deny standing in the current case, leaving all parties in the same position of uncertainty as a year ago.

I believe that now, before the Court acts, is the time to discuss policy options and to determine what makes good public policy. Waiting until after a decision will only harden the positions of both parties. I would encourage the credit unions and the banks to come together and consider options for resolving the issue in legislation rather than additional years of litigation. The approach I am outlining or somewhere close to it, could well be where we end up on the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I have inserted a copy of my proposal elsewhere in today's RECORD. I offer

it for the consideration of my colleagues as a beginning point for future discussion.

TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE OF NEW JERSEY STATE SENATOR JOHN EWING

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize New Jersey State Senator John H. Ewing. Senator Ewing has dedicated the last 31 years to representing the citizens of Somerset County and the surrounding area in many ways. Senator Ewing served 2 years on the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders starting in 1966. In 1967 he successfully ran for a seat in the New Jersey General Assembly where he served for 10 years until he was elected to the New Jersey State Senate in 1977. While in the Senate he has served on the Joint Appropriations Committee and as chairman of the Senate Education Committee. His interest in the need to ensure a quality education for New Jersey's children is well known by educators and parents from all around the State.

Senator Ewing not only served his State, but served his country as well. He served in World War II, winning a Bronze Star for Valor. Because of the bravery of men like Jack Ewing the people of our Nation and many others around the world are free today. His wartime courage remains an extremely significant contribution to humanity because were it not for the men and women who risked life and limb during the Second World War, we might not have the freedom here to pay tribute to his legacy. I thank him for that service.

Senator Ewing is retiring from the New Jersey State Senate at the end of this year. He has served the people of central New Jersey very well. We will all miss his energetic and dedicated service. It is my hope that he and his wife Ally will have a long, happy, and healthy retirement. It is certainly well deserved.

A TRIBUTE TO LUKE MARANO, SR.

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Philadelphian, Luke Marano, Sr., who will be honored this Sunday as the Philadelphia Committee of Boys Towns of Italy's 1997 Man of the Year. Mr. Marano is the chairman of the 83-year-old Philadelphia Macaroni Co., and has distinguished himself through his continued contributions to the community.

Since taking over the operations of the Philadelphia Macaroni Co. from his grandfather, who started the business back in 1914, Luke has taken a hands-on approach to making it a continued success. He knows how to run every machine in the plant, and has expanded operations three times since 1973. Producing nearly 100 million pounds of pasta per year, Philadelphia Macaroni is one of the

largest family enterprises in the U.S. pasta business today. Under Luke's direction, the company recently broke ground for a new durum flour mill in North Dakota. Indicative of his success in the industry, in 1992 Luke was named Pasta Man of the Year by the National Pasta Association.

But aside from his business successes and contributions to the Philadelphia business community, Luke Marano is compassionate and generous in his public life. When he is honored this Sunday, it will be for his generosity in aiding the cause of the Boys Towns of Italy. This worthy charity, founded after WWII by Monsignor Carroll-Abbing, provides food, clothing, and shelter to needy children throughout Italy, a cause Luke Marano has long been a supporter of.

Mr. Speaker, in light of his years of success in the pasta business, and his dedication to worthy causes such as the Boys Towns of Italy, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring a great American and fellow Philadelphian, Luke Marano, Sr.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ETTA WEISS OSMAN

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Etta Weiss Osman a very happy 85th birthday. Born Etta Weiss in Brooklyn on November 25, 1912, Etta is the youngest of six siblings. She married Haskell Osman on September 1, 1935, and they enjoyed 47 years of happiness together before Haskell's passing in 1982. Brooklyn's loss was Florida's gain when Etta and Haskell moved south in 1972, but we are fortunate that Etta still returns to Brooklyn for frequent visits.

Etta is blessed with a large, loving family—four children, eleven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. On the occasion of her birthday, we would all do well to emulate Etta Weiss Osman, who continues to embody the proverb that happiness is not a destination, it is a method of life.

THE SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF TRESSLER ADOPTION SERVICES

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, for the past two and a half decades, Tressler Adoption Services has provided an invaluable service to the community by helping to place special needs children in the care of loving and caring families. The courage and conviction that they have devoted to helping these extraordinary children has not gone unnoticed and I applaud their efforts.

Tressler Adoption Services has given more than 2,500 children a second change in life. The priceless opportunities afforded to these special needs children may not have been realized had Tressler not been the stewards of their good fortune. Tressler should serve as a model for other communities, demonstrating